In the Claims

1-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented): A travel bag for enclosing, protecting and transporting contents placed therein and for collapsing to a storage position when contents are not placed therein, said travel bag comprising:

a flexible enclosure; and

an external rigid support member,

said external rigid support member having a main portion, a bottom portion, and side portions, the bottom portion joining the main and side portions to form a partially enclosed concave part into which a portion of said flexible enclosure is fitted and affixed,

said external rigid support member fitting only over substantially a quadrant of said flexible enclosure so that the remaining substantially three quadrants of said flexible enclosure are not enclosed by a support member;

said flexible enclosure being formed of a strong material arranged as an enclosure having a top, sides and bottom portions, said sides being flexible so that when said bag does not contain contents said top can be collapsed into said concave part in a storage position;

said flexible enclosure including an opening formed in said enclosure and closure means connected to said enclosure so that said closure means can be engaged to close said opening.

10. (Previously presented): A travel bag according to claim 9 wherein when said flexible enclosure is in the storage position said flexible enclosure occupies the concave part of said external rigid support member.

11. (Previously presented): A travel bag according to claim 9 wherein said external rigid support member extends from the bottom portion of said enclosure along a portion of the back of said enclosure and along a portion of the sides of said enclosure.

12. (Previously presented): A travel bag according to claim 9 wherein the main portion of said external rigid support member extends from the bottom portion of said enclosure, along a portion of the back of said enclosure and terminates near the middle of said enclosure.

13. (Previously presented): A travel bag according to claim 9 wherein the main portion of said external rigid support member is located on the back portion of said enclosure and extends between the bottom portion of said enclosure and the middle of said enclosure.

14. (Previously presented): A travel bag for enclosing, protecting and transporting contents placed therein comprising:

a flexible enclosure; and

an external rigid support member,

said flexible enclosure being formed of a strong material arranged as an enclosure having a top, sides and bottom portions,

said flexible enclosure including an opening formed in said enclosure and closure means connected to said enclosure so that said closure means can be engaged to close said opening;

said external rigid support member having a main portion, a bottom portion, and side portions, the bottom portion joining the main and side portions to form a partially enclosed cavity into which a portion of said flexible enclosure is fitted and affixed, the main portion extending from the bottom of said enclosure along a portion of the side and terminating near the middle of said enclosure, wherein said top can be collapsed into said partially enclosed cavity;

said external rigid support member fitting only over substantially a quadrant of said flexible enclosure so that the remaining substantially three quadrants of said flexible enclosure are not enclosed by a support member.

15. (Previously presented): A travel bag according to claim 14 wherein said rigid support member is formed in a shape substantially similar to a quadrant of said flexible enclosure.

16. (Previously presented): A travel bag for enclosing, protecting and transporting contents placed therein comprised of two primary members:

a flexible enclosure; and

an external rigid support member,

said flexible enclosure being formed of a strong material arranged as an enclosure having a top, sides and bottom portions,

said flexible enclosure including an opening formed in said enclosure and closure means connected to said enclosure so that said closure means can be engaged to close said opening;

said external rigid support member being formed of a single piece rugged material having a main portion, a bottom portion, and side portions, the bottom portion joining the main and side portions to form a partially enclosed cavity into which a portion of said flexible enclosure is fitted and affixed, wherein said top can be collapsed into said partially enclosed cavity;

said external rigid support member fitting only over substantially a quadrant of said flexible enclosure so that the remaining substantially three quadrants of said flexible enclosure are not enclosed by a support member.

17. (Previously presented): A travel bag of claim 16, said flexible enclosure being formed of a material from the group:

canvas, denim, cotton, nylon, acrylics and polyesters; and

said rigid base being formed of a plastic material.

18. (Previously presented): A travel bag of claim 16 said flexible enclosure being formed of a material from the group:

canvas, denim, cotton, nylon, acrylics and polyesters; and

said rigid base being formed of a metallic material.

19. (Previously presented): A travel bag of claim 16 said external rigid support member further comprising: wheel wells, said wheel wells being arranged on a curved joint between the main portion and the bottom portion operable to receive therein wheels and wheel mounting hardware.

20. (Previously presented): A travel bag of claim 16 said external rigid support member further comprising reinforcement ribs, the reinforcement ribs being formed on said rigid member main portion in longitudinal or lateral directions.

21. (Previously presented): A travel bag of claim 16 said flexible enclosure having two corners and said external rigid ,support member having two corners, the corners of the flexible enclosure being matingly received and affixed into the corners of the external rigid support member.

22. (Previously presented): A travel bag of claim 21 said flexible enclosure being affixed to said external rigid support member by rivets.

23. (Previously presented): A travel bag of claim 22 said external rigid support member having a convex side and a concave side, said flexible enclosure being affixed to the concave side of said external rigid support member, said wheel wells being affixed to the convex side of the external rigid support member at the curved joint.

24. (Previously presented): A travel bag for enclosing, protecting and transporting contents placed therein, said bag comprising two primary members as follows:

a flexible enclosure; and

an external rigid support member,

said flexible enclosure being formed of a strong material of a top, sides and bottom portions,

said external rigid support member being formed of a single piece rugged material having a main portion, a bottom portion, and side portions, the bottom portion joining the main and side portions to form a partially enclosed cavity into which a portion of said flexible enclosure is fitted and affixed, wherein said top can be collapsed into said partially enclosed cavity;

said external rigid support member fitting only over substantially a quadrant of said flexible enclosure so that the remaining substantially three quadrants of said flexible enclosure are not enclosed by a support member.

25. (Previously presented): A travel bag of claim 24, said external rigid member having a single closed loop periphery.

26. (Previously presented): A travel bag of claim 24, said flexible enclosure sides being formed of a single piece which is wrapped in a cylindrical body to form a substantially elongated element which may be joined by said top and bottom portions.

27. (Previously presented): A travel bag of claim 24, said external rigid member extending from a bottom edge to terminate near the middle of the flexible enclosure member.

28. (Previously presented): A travel bag of claim 24, said external rigid member having a concave side to cooperate in form with the flexible enclosure member.

29. (Currently amended): A travel bag of claim 24, said external rigid member further having corners integrated with the entire external rigid member as a single piece of formed material whereby the corners cannot be separated from the flexible enclosure ~~bag~~.

30. (Previously presented): A travel bag of claim 24, said flexible enclosure member is affixed to the external rigid member such that it may be pushed through the closed loop periphery and into the partially enclosed cavity formed by the external rigid member.

31. (Previously presented): A travel bag of claim 9 wherein said flexible enclosure includes a top, sides and a bottom portion, and said opening extends along one of said sides.

32. (Previously presented): A travel bag of Claim 31 wherein said opening extends the complete length of one of said sides.

33. (Previously presented): A travel bag of claim 9 wherein said closure means is a zipper.

34. (Previously presented): A travel bag of claim 14 wherein said opening extends along one of said sides.

35. (Previously presented): A travel bag of Claim 34 wherein said opening extends the complete length of one of said sides.

36. (Previously presented): A travel bag of claim 14 wherein said closure means is a zipper.

37. (Previously presented): A travel bag of claim 16 wherein said opening extends along one of said sides.

38. (Previously presented): A travel bag of Claim 37 wherein said opening extends the complete length of one of said sides.

39. (Previously presented): A travel bag of claim 16 wherein said closure means is a zipper.

40. (Previously presented): A travel bag of claim 24 wherein said opening extends along one of said sides.

41. (Previously presented): A travel bag of Claim 40 wherein said opening extends the complete length of one of said sides.

42. (Previously presented): A travel bag of claim 24 wherein said closure means is a zipper.

43. (New): A travel bag of claim 1 wherein the main portion of the rigid enclosure is substantially flat.